

## U. S. Department of Justice

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FOIA 50422 DOCID: 70099689

44-HQ-13323-1M



SERIALS 1-

44-HQ-13323

SECTION 1

## FEDERAL BUREAU

of

## INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY  
NATIONAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/28/01 BY SP1 CLK/yb

NW: 15720 DocId: 70099689 Page 1

Transfer-Call 421

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/20/58

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (44-0)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS (Officials University of Mississippi)  
CLENNON KING - Victim  
CR

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are three copies of a news item appearing in The Atlanta Constitution, Friday, 6/20/58. Also two copies of the article are being enclosed for the information of the New Orleans Office.

These are being submitted for informational purposes only.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Atlanta

ETK:hld

(5)

EXP-PROC  
JUN 25 1958

MCT - 5

REC- 58

JUN 25 1958

70 JUL 3 1958  
NW: 15720 DocId: 70099689 Page 2

# Negro Flees Mississippi 'For Safety'

Clennon King, Negro educator-minister, left Mississippi Thursday "for my own safety" and demanded an apology from that state for holding him in a mental institution.

King, 37, who was barred June 5 from entering the all-white University of Mississippi, declared here, "I have been treated very badly. I hope to go back to Mississippi but I will not go back if I feel that I am really unwelcome."

He stopped in Atlanta on a flight to his father's home in Albany, Ga., from Jackson, Miss. He arrived coatless and without baggage on the trip arranged less than 24 hours after Mississippi officials declared him sane.

"I am not interested in hitting back at them," King said. "But I do think I will hit back in this way: If they do not withdraw the warrants against me, and the state does not make some statement of regret and reimburse all the expenses, I think I should protest in some way."

"If there is no apology I will sue the state of Mississippi for acting as they have acted."

King said he would be willing to return either to sue, or to face trial on charges of disturbing the peace at Oxford, Miss., site of the university.

He said the trip to Albany could be called a "flight" because "I didn't feel safe. Maybe my fears were unfounded, but I had them nevertheless."

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION  
Atlanta, Georgia  
6/20/58

Editor: RALPH MCGILL

Re: UNSUBS; (MISSISSIPPI STATE OFFICIALS)

CLENNON KING - VICTIM

Atlanta File 44-0

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/25/58

FROM : SAC, New Orleans (44-0)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS (Officials University of Mississippi)  
CLENNON KING - VICTIM  
CR

Re Atlanta letter to Bureau 6/20/58.

Since Oxford, Mississippi, the location of the University of Mississippi, is situated within the Memphis Field Division, New Orleans copies of referenced letter together with enclosures are forwarded herewith to Memphis.

2 - Bureau  
1 - Atlanta (Info)  
2 - Memphis (Encls. 4)  
PGT:ez  
(5)

JUN 26 1958

JUN 26 1958

37  
EX-124

EX-124

REC-64

44-13323-2

20 JUN 30 1958

7-3

JUN 30 8 50 AM '58

F B I

Date: 7/11/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIR TEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, New Orleans (44-0)

RE: UNSUBS (Officials University of Mississippi)  
CLENNON KING - VICTIM  
CR

Re Atlanta letter to Bureau 6/20/58.

Attention of the Bureau and Memphis is called to an Associated Press dispatch appearing in the 7/11/58 issue of the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss. The article is date-lined Gulfport, Miss., and quotes CLENNON KING as stating he will run the risk of arrest in order to recover personal articles left behind when he tried to enroll at the University of Mississippi. The item states KING disclosed his plans in a telegram to be sent 7/11/58 to University Chancellor J. D. WILLIAMS with copies to President EISENHOWER, FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER, and Mississippi Senators EASTLAND and STENNIS. KING is reported to be stating in the telegrams that he will return to Oxford, Miss., 7/18/58 despite warrants outstanding there on "false framed-up charges" and "these blackmail warrants." He reported stated in the telegram that the warrants "should be either served or withdrawn. As long as these warrants exist I am not free."

Foregoing furnished for information. No action contemplated this division.

ABBATICCHIO

3 - Bureau (AM)  
2 - Memphis (AM)  
2 - New Orleans  
PGT:bs  
(7)

EX-128

24 JUL 14 1958

FBI

RECEIVED

JUL 12 1958

RECEIVED

50 JUL 23 1958

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

# King Back Home; Won't Try Again

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) —The Rev. Clennon King is back at his Gulfport home but he said today he isn't going to try again to enroll in the all-white University of Mississippi. His main concern at the present is staying out of jail.

The 37-year-old Negro, who left Mississippi in a rush some two weeks ago because he said he felt he wasn't wanted, said in an interview he was worried about the charges of disturbing the peace and resisting arrest which are still pending against him in Lafayette County.

The charges were filed after King attempted to enter Ole Miss. But apparently he has nothing to worry about as long as he stays out of Lafayette County. Bramblett Roberts, Lafayette County attorney, indicated no attempt would be made to have King picked up on the charges.

"If he comes to this county again, we have warrants against him and they will be executed," Roberts said.

**SAYS JAIL THREATENED**

King, former history professor at Alcorn A&M, said the "head of an important state institution" had told him "I would go to jail for at least a year and would be fined \$1,000 on the charges if I returned."

"I hope they won't put me in jail," he said.

King, who left the state by plane, said he drove back to Gulfport, leaving his wife and children with relatives in Albany, Ga. He said he planned to resume

his post as pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal church in north Gulfport.

King tried to enroll in the University of Mississippi June 5. He was taken off the campus by plain-clothes highway patrolmen after, officials said, he created a disturbance.

He was first held in the highway patrol headquarters in Jackson and later moved to the state mental institution at Whitfield, where he was given sanity tests.

Results of the tests were not revealed. But it is against the law to release an insane person.

King said he didn't want to talk about a Gulfport businessman's offer to contribute \$1,000 to return King to Africa if he wants to go.

## NOT IDENTIFIED

The businessman, never identified by name, made the offer after King said if he couldn't register at Ole Miss, he wanted to be returned to Africa.

King said he had not heard directly from the man and he would not like to discuss the offer until he met him.

King had received national attention once before he tried to get into Ole Miss. While he was a professor at Alcorn A&M, he wrote several newspaper articles criticizing the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. The articles touched off a student protest that nearly shut down the school. He was later dismissed from the school's staff.

*Spec. to R. G. Johnson*

THE CLARION-LEDGER  
JACKSON, MISS.  
Date 7/3/58  
Sect. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 Col. 5-6  
Editor \_\_\_\_\_

## RACIAL MATTERS

*44-13325-1*  
NOT RECORDED  
117 JUL 23 1958

59 JUL 24 1958

7/25

Enclosed  
Clennon King - Trust  
C. R.

R.  
7-6-60 JACOBSON  
Low

**STATE TIMES  
JACKSON, MISS.**

Date 7/3/58  
Sect. 1 Page 2 Col. 4  
Editor \_\_\_\_\_

## RACIAL MATTERS

5-20

144-13323-1

NOT RECORDED  
117 JUL 23 1958

59 JUL 24 1958

NW: 15720 DocId: 70099689 Page 7

# King Won't Be Bothered If He Stays Clear Of Oxford

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — The Rev. Clennon King today prepared to resume his pastorate here apparently safe from state prosecution as long as he stays out of Lafayette County.

The 37-year-old Negro whose unsuccessful attempt to enter the all-white University of Mississippi resulted in his hurried departure from the state by plane, drove back to north Gulfport where he ~~has been~~ pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He left his wife and children with relatives in Albany, Ga.

The Lafayette County attorney, Bramblett Roberts, indicated yesterday no attempt would be made to have King picked up on the still pending charges of disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.

"If he comes to this county again," Roberts said, "we have warrants against him and they will be executed."

The charges were filed after King attempted to ~~enter the~~ university.

*CF Williams*

*Let 6-7*

*Info 6-11-58*

*WOWAN*

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

JACKSON, MISS.

Date 7/3/58

Sect. 3 Page 3 Col. 1-2

Editor \_\_\_\_\_

## RACIAL MATTERS

44-13323-A

NOT RECORDED

117 JUL 23 1958



July 15, 1958

37  
21

REC-66 44-13323-4

Reverend Clennon King  
2022 33rd Street  
Gulfport, Mississippi

Dear Mr. King:

Your letter of July 8, 1958, with enclosure, has been received.

The matter you reported does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI; therefore, I cannot be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 New Orleans - Enclosures (2)

1 Memphis - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Mr. King, a Negro, on June 5, 1958, attempted to enroll at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, creating wide-spread publicity. He was arrested at the University and taken to a state mental hospital where he was held until June 18, 1958. He faces charges of disturbing the peace and resisting arrest, and officials have stated these charges will be pressed against him.

Tolson  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Nease  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

DWB:lmh

(5) FBI

REC'D BUREAU

FBI

REC'D CIVIL RIGHTS

REC'D

REC'D

REC'D

REC'D

Mr. Tolson ✓  
 Mr. Boardman ✓  
 Mr. Belmont ✓  
 Mr. Mohr ✓  
 Mr. Nease ✓  
 Mr. Parsons ✓  
 Mr. Rosen ✓  
 Mr. Tamm ✓  
 Mr. Trotter ✓  
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan ✓  
 Tele. Room ✓  
 Mr. Holloman ✓  
 Miss Gandy ✓

2022 33rd Street  
 Gulfport, Mississippi  
 July 8, 1958

Mr J Edgar Hoover  
 Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D C

Honorable Sir:

The enclosed is a copy of a telegram scheduled to be sent to Chancellor Williams of the University of Mississippi on July 11.

The substance of this message is that the warrants which the University, through its agents, has for my arrest should be either served or withdrawn. They have been secured because I sought to be admitted to the University of Mississippi, and not because I have resisted arrest or disturbed the peace on its campus.

In the event you are inclined to go out of your way to use your influence to aid in their withdrawal, I will be thankful. But my major interest in writing to you is that, if the warrants are served I implore you to use your important office to help insure a cessation of any further miscarriages of justice in this unfortunate case.

Most respectfully yours,

REC-66

44-13323

Clennon King 18 JUL 22 1958

2 autostats of prisoning + enclosure  
 7-12-58  
 Lmb

Clennon King caused wide-spread publicity by attempting to enroll in the University of Mississippi recently. Because of his questionable actions at the time he submitted his application, he was arrested by the State Police, placed in a mental institution and subsequently released.

NW: 15720 DocId: 70099689 Page 10

PROCESSED  
 JUL 10 1958

ack 7-15-58  
 D W B

ENCLOSURE  
 REC-66

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1958  
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

TELEGRAM TO:

Dr J D Williams  
Chancelbr  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, Mississippi

As long as the University of Mississippi, through its agents, has warrants for my arrest, I am not free. I have returned to Mississippi because of this.

I have not returned to Mississippi because I have wanted to return.

These warrants give you a mortgage on my freedom, and you may foreclose at will. I hope your agent does not use them, but this is not enough. I cannot rest content as long as I am not really free.

If I decide to leave America and make my home another country, I cannot do this as long as these warrants exist. These warrants mean that I can be arrested anywhere, anytime. My arrest can be made outside Mississippi as easily as inside Mississippi. This anxiety is worse than being out of prison on parole because this is legal intimidation.

That the warrants are groundless, and that everyone who does not know this suspects it, is poor consolation. IF HONESTY AND INTEGRITY WERE ISSUES, THE WARRANTS FOR MY ARREST FOR SEEKING ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI WOULD BE WRITTEN AS SUCH AND NOT HIDDEN BEHIND THE FALSE FRAMED-UP CHARGES of my having "resisted arrest" at the University or "disturbed the peace" at the University. I am no more guilty of these things than I was of being "insane". But there is no doubt in my mind that you can arbitrarily secure a conviction on all these, or any other, charges you may invent. Any criminal appeals made to Federal Courts mean little ~~WHEAV~~ reversals are simply remanded to the original local courts.

These blackmail warrants should be either served or withdrawn. For a great university of learning to employ such despicable means, to intimidate American citizens rightly seeking a higher education, is pathetic.

I have made clear, ever since the evening of the sad day I sought admission, I HAVE NO MORE EDUCATIONAL INTEREST IN THE UNIVERSITY. I am quite sorry to say it, but my respect for the University of Mississippi is very weak. I would hardly ever want to study at the University no matter how different your policies may develop in the future. I do not seek the association of people who do not care for mine. Any interest I may have had in studying at the University has never exceeded your interest in having me there. I would never have gone to the lost expense of having sought to attend the University in the first place had not you people at the University, and on the Board, engaged in duplicity and given me the impression that you were possibly sincere by expressly and repeatedly informing me that my African background would not influence your position. Knowing who I was, you even sent me forms preparatory for living in the University dormitories when I never sought them.

From the outset I made it sufficiently clear that I would never seek to force myself upon the University. I do not even seek to force myself upon America. If America has no genuine design for the utmost in Negro advancement, I prefer to live in a nation which does. Some Negroes have forgotten the full significance of the circumstances in which our group came to inhabit this land. I have not.

NW: 15720

DocId: 7009689 Page 11

44-13323-4

ENCLOSURE

BY MAINTAINING WARRANTS FOR MY ARREST THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FORCES ITSELF UPON ME. It does not matter that what you are accusing me of having committed in the University Administration is wholly fabricated and without foundation. As long as these warrants exist, I am not free.

If the University of Mississippi, and the Sheriff who represents it, are ashamed to serve these warrants, then, they should be withdrawn. If they are not served nor withdrawn I must ultimately challenge them. I will not wait "two years" for a statute of limitation to wear them away.

I assure you that I shall be acting reluctantly, but my freedom means no less to me than my safety.

After having been arrested in the University Administration Building and my civil rights abused by disguised State Highway Patrolmen who bodily carted me off to Jackson, my suitcase was left behind at my lodging quarters. If your warrants will not be soon served or withdrawn, I shall go to the trouble of personally returning to get my belongings on July 18. If the Sheriff still does not seek me out to do what you have alleged is proper, I shall seek him out to find out why.

Our highest state officials have exhibited themselves to be such willing tools of capricious honesty that I am sending copies of this telegram to President Eisenhower, Mr J Edgar Hoover, and Mississippi's United States Senators. If they would like to learn my July 18 itinerary in detail I shall give it. This is not done because I seriously believe it will actually insure my safety, but simply for the record. Should your cooperating Sheriff follow through on his threat to jail me "if I return" to the University's environs, I fully expect to be convicted and the penalty to be heinously severe. I fully realize that it is merely the side you represent which is the real "law"; facts, your written statutes, and Christian principles may be arbitrarily ignored or twisted to suit your convenience.

CLENNON KING

## Clennon King Learns 'His Lesson' After Moving Family To California

Negro Clennon King, who moved to Los Angeles after failing to enroll at the University of Mississippi says racial conditions in California are worse than in this Deep South state.

In a letter to Mississippi newsmen, the former minister and professor says he moved his family from Gulfport to Los Angeles because many Negroes considered it "the promised land."

"But what I have found makes me sorry, in a way, that I deliberately antagonized Mississippians as I did, for Negro Mississippians' racial concerns are more basic than school integration," King said.

"The California type contain-

ment of the Negro is far more ominous than that of Mississippi because it is so much more efficient and professional and consequently that much more to be hated," he said.

"My brief experience in Mississippi soundly taught me one thing, that despite all the hullabaloo, there is far more genuine bilateral concurrence there than the current racial propaganda admits."

King said Los Angeles has the highest per capita rate of major crime in the nation with most of it committed by Negroes. But he said "unfavorable racial matters and disliked racial thinking are made hush - hush" in California

while "soiled reports from the South get predominant top billing."

"My resented observation is the hypocrisy," he said. "How, for instance, the excessive crime figures of 'liberal and progressive' California compare with those of 'reactionary and backward' Mississippi."

King tried unsuccessfully to enroll at the University of Mississippi last summer. Last fall he fasted and prayed in hopes of persuading Negro families to try to enroll their children at white schools in Gulfport. That also failed, and he moved to California soon afterward.

STATE TIMES  
Sept. 8, 1959  
Jackson, Miss.  
NEW ORLEANS OFFICE

44-13323-A  
NOT RECORDED  
47 OCT 2 1959

UNSUBS (Officials of  
University of Mississippi);  
CLENNON KING - VICTIM  
CR